

# **Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/687,265

Examiner

Greg Binda

Applicant(s)

WUBBELS, RICHARD

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed on December 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15 and 17-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/695,336.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## **Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Application was originally filed with no "claim 14". Preliminary amdt of 10/15/03 cancelled first 14 original claims + renumbered original claims 16-20 to be claims 15-19 per Rule 126. The "claim 15" that was cancelled is actually claim 14 as also renumbered per Rule 126. To avoid any confusion, note attached copy of claims clearly identifying that the cancelled "claim 15" is actually the renumbered "claim 14".

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### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: in the first line of the specification after "14 August 2002," insert – now U. S. Patent No. 6,699,130 --.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 7:00 pm with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Greg Binda  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679

# Claim Appendix

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 13 and <sup>14</sup>~~15~~ (cancelled). (Note that claim <sup>14</sup>~~15~~ was originally as "claim 15" incorrectly numbered).

15. (currently amended) A slip clutch arrangement for driving separate driven crop processing elements at opposite sides of an implement, comprising:

- a) identical first and second slip clutches arranged as mirror images of each other;
- b) said first and second slip clutches including respective drive shaft elements located along a drive axis;
- c) a connecting shaft extending between said first and second slip clutches and coupled to respective first ends of said drive shaft elements;
- d) each slip clutch including:
  - i) first and second concentric clutch sections mounted for rotation about said drive axis;
  - ii) said first concentric clutch section including said drive shaft element and defining a closed container for holding coolant;
  - iii) said first concentric clutch section further including a first plate disposed for rotation about said drive axis and being coupled to said drive shaft element and forming an end plate of said container;
  - iv) a friction disk element being in contact with said first plate and being mounted for rotation with said second concentric clutch section and for axial movement relative to said first plate;
  - v) a spring assembly mounted to said second concentric clutch section and biasing said friction disk element into friction engagement with said first plate; and
  - vi) said second concentric clutch section including a hub at one end adapted for connection to a drive component leading to a respective

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one of said separate crop processing elements.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The slip clutch arrangement defined in claim 15 46 wherein said second concentric clutch section of each of said first and second slip clutches is in the form of a housing having said hub at one end.

18. (currently amended) The slip clutch arrangement defined in claim 15 46 wherein:

- a) said second concentric clutch section of each of said first and second slip clutches is in the form of a cylindrical housing disposed concentrically to said drive shaft element; and
- b) said spring assembly is located within one end of, and mounted to, said housing.

19. (previously amended) The slip clutch arrangement defined in claim 15 wherein:

- a) said drive shaft element includes a tubular sleeve fixed to said first plate; and
- b) said drive shaft element further including a stub shaft fixed to one end of said sleeve.